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PTQ0954

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DS-00
	EB-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	ACE-00	SCT-00	IRM-00	ASDS-01
	EPAE-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/005W	
				-----0F7257 081808Z /38			

P 081711Z AUG 01
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3041
INFO USDOC WASHDC
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D), B6, B4

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 007088

STATE FOR WHA/AND, WHA/EPSC, EB/ESC/IEC
COMMERCE FOR 4331/IEP/OLA/AND/JANGLIN AND FOR
3134/USFCS/IOI/WH/DLUTTER
ENERGY FOR GARY WARD AND ERIKA BENSEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/06/10
TAGS: ENRG, EPET, PTER, PREL, PGOV, CO
SUBJECT: OXY PUMPING AGAIN BUT CLOSING EXPLORATORY WELL

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CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR ANNE W. PATTERSON. REASON:
1.5(B).

SUMMARY

1. (C) OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM (OXY) HAS BEGUN PUMPING AGAIN
FROM ITS CANO LIMON OIL FIELD IN ARAUCA DEPARTMENT. THIS
FOLLOWS COLOMBIAN MILITARY OPERATIONS WHICH HAVE LED TO A
MAJOR DECREASE IN ATTACKS ON THE PIPELINE IT USES TO
TRANSPORT CRUDE OIL TO THE CARIBBEAN. OXY CONTINUES TO

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INSIST THAT THE ARMY'S ACTIVITY BE FOLLOWED BY A RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT STATE PRESENCE (I.E. POLICE AND PROSECUTORS) IN ARAUCA. ALTHOUGH FULL RECOVERY OF LOSSES FROM THE PIPELINE'S SHUTDOWN IS UNLIKELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, OXY MAY STEP UP PRODUCTION AT CANO LIMON TO PARTIALLY MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE. IT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS STOPPING DRILLING AT ITS NEARBY GIBRALTAR-1 EXPLORATORY WELL AND IS MOVING OUT MACHINERY.

B1, B4

END SUMMARY.

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CRUDE FLOWING AGAIN

2. (C) ON AUGUST 2, [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] CONFIRMED TO US THAT OXY HAS RESUMED PUMPING CRUDE OIL FROM ITS CANO LIMON OIL FIELD IN ARAUCA DEPARTMENT IN EASTERN COLOMBIA. OXY HAD STOPPED PUMPING IN FEBRUARY AFTER A MAJOR INCREASE IN ATTACKS ON THE PIPELINE IT USES TO TRANSPORT CRUDE TO THE PORT OF COVENAS ON THE CARIBBEAN. IT HAD ALSO INVOKED "FORCE MAJEURE" CLAUSES IN ITS CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS, RELIEVING IT OF LIABILITY FOR FAILURE TO MAKE TIMELY DELIVERIES.

B1, B4

[REDACTED] PUMPING BEGAN AGAIN ON JULY 10, AND 500 LAID OFF CONTRACT EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN REHIRED. SINCE JULY 5, THE PIPELINE HAS BEEN ATTACKED FIVE TIMES, A RELATIVELY LOW NUMBER WHICH PERMITS ROUTINE OPERATION, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THIS CONTRASTS WITH 29 ATTACKS ON THE PIPELINE IN FEBRUARY IN THE RUN-UP TO OXY'S EXTENDED SHUT-DOWN. OXY HAS LIFTED ITS INVOCATION OF FORCE MAJEURE, ALTHOUGH MARKETS, APPARENTLY NOT YET CONFIDENT THAT THE FLOW OF OXY'S COLOMBIAN CRUDE WILL NOT BE SERIOUSLY INTERRUPTED AGAIN, ARE STILL DISCOUNTING ITS PRICE FOR THE TIME BEING.

B
6

3. (C) [REDACTED]

B1

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B1

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DS-00
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	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	ACE-00	SCT-00	IRM-00	ASDS-01
	EPAE-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/005W	

-----0F7C5B 082019Z /38

P 081711Z AUG 01 ZDK CTG EHCB #5439
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3042
INFO USDOC WASHDC
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BOGOTA 007088

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B1

SHUTTING DOWN EXPLORATION

5. (C) OXY HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THAT IT IS
CEASING DRILLING, AFTER GOING 12,000 FEET DEEP, AT ITS
GIBRALTAR-1 EXPLORATORY WELL IN THE SIRIRI (FORMERLY CALLED
SAMORE) BLOCK IN NORTE DEL SANTANDER DEPARTMENT, NEAR THE
BORDER WITH ARAUCA. WHEN THE SHUTDOWN HAD FIRST BEEN
RUMORED, PRESS REPORTS LINKED IT TO THE PIPELINE SECURITY
PROBLEM. HOWEVER, OXY'S ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT
THE PROBLEMS WERE GEOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL.

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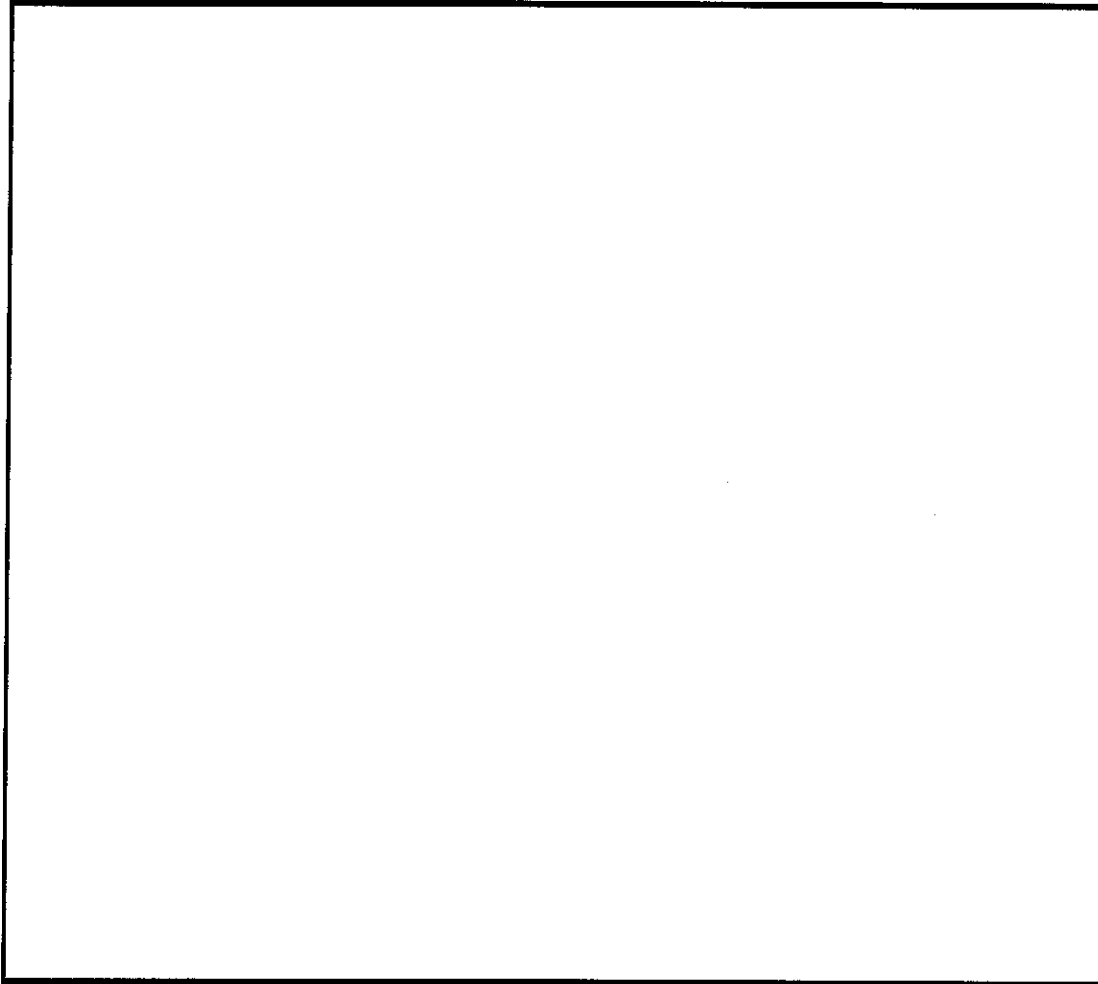
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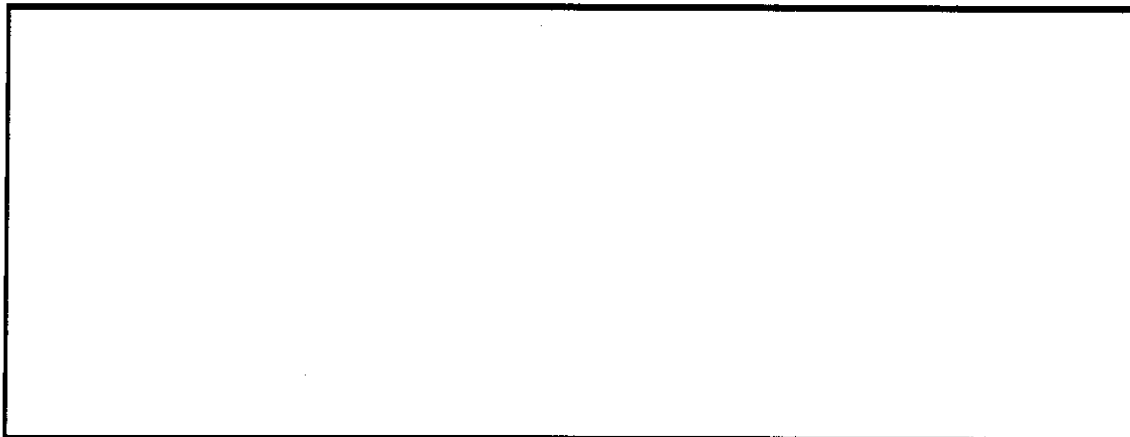
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ACTION WHA-00

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	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	ACE-00	SCT-00	IRM-00	ASDS-01
	EPAE-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/005W	

-----0F7C5E 082019Z /38

P 081711Z AUG 01 ZDK CTG EHCB #5439
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3043
INFO USDOC WASHDC
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

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PATTERSON

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